The People's Korea

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President KIM IL SUNG Receives Kampuchean Gov. Delegation

President Kim Il Sung on March 12 received the government delegation of Democratic Kampuchea headed by Khieu Samphan, President of the Presidium of the State and Prime Minister of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, on a goodwill visit to the DPRK.

Present there together with Khieu Samphan were Thiounn Thioum, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the Government of Democratic Kamnuchea; Keat Chhon, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea; and Sim Son, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Democratic Kampuchea to the DPRK.

Also on hand were Premier Li Jong Ok, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam, Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army Lieutenant General O Guk Ryol and Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song Nam.

President Kim Il Sung had a talk with the guests in a friendly atmosphere.

That day the President arranged a luncheon in honour of the government delegation of Democratic Kampuchea.

President Kim Il Sung on March 12 met with the government delegation of Democratic Kampuchea. (KCNA Radiophoto)

President KIM IL SUNG Cables Zimbabwe PM

PYONGYANG, March 7 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il Sung, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings to Comrade Robert G. Mugabe in connection with the landslide victory of the Zimbabwe African National Union in the recent general elections for independence in Zimbabwe with deep trust of the people and the latter's assuming of a heavy responsibility as the Prime Minister of Government. The message reads:

Comrade Robert G. Mugabe
President
Zimbabwe African National Union
Prime Minister of the Government
Zimbabwe

Salisbury

Very much pleased with the landslide victory of the Zimbabwe African National Union and Patriotic Front in the recent general elections for independence in Zimbabwe with deep trust of the people and your assuming of a heavy responsibility as the Prime Minister of Government I extend, on behalf of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean people and on my own, my warm congratulations to you and through you to the Zimbabwe African National Union and the Zimbabwe people.

The Zimbabwe people, rallied around the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, have waged a protracted heroic armed struggle for freedom and liberation against colonialism and racism and achieved a firm victory in this election, which is a brilliant fruition yielded by this struggle.

It implies that the colonial rule and racial suppression have been brought to an end in Zimbabwe and a broad vista to national independence and the creation of an independent new life has been opened up to the Zimbabwe people.

We are convinced that if the Zimbabwe people firmly safeguard the achievements already gained in the struggle and actively struggle to liquidate the aftermaths of the colonial rule, set up a progressive social system and build an independent national economy and national culture while sharpening vigilance against the possible betraying acts by the colonialists and racists they will surely be able to advance vigorously along the shortcut towards freedom, happiness and national prosperity.

The Korean people highly appreciate the Zimbabwe people for their great contribution to the cause for the complete liberation of Africa through a sacred struggle for national liberation, and will continue to render as in the past full support and firm solidarity to your just struggle for the country's independent development and the building of a new society.

Convinced that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two peoples established in the common struggle for independence against imperialism will expand and develop in future in all fields, I take this opportunity to heartily wish you great successes in your new responsible work.

Kim Il Sung
General Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, March 7, 1980

Panmunjom Chosen as Venue of Premiers' Contact, 5th Contact Slated for April 1

—*At 4th Working-Level Contact*—

The fourth contact between working-level delegates for arranging a contact between the Premiers of north and south Korea was held at the Panmungak Pavilion in the portion of the DPRK side of Panmunjom on March 18.

Attending the contact from the Pyongyang side were chief delegate Hyon Jun Guk, Vice-Director of a Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Councillor of the Administration Council, and two other delegates.

Chief delegate Hyon Jun Guk was the first to speak at the contact which began at 10 a.m. sharp.

Question of Venue

Recalling that the Pyongyang side had put forward momentous proposals on the questions of the venue and agenda of the Premiers' contact at the previous third contact, he stressed:

"The proposal of our side to start the Premiers' contact at Panmunjom and have it in Pyongyang and Seoul in the next stage is a progressive step for promoting the contact of the working-level delegates which was at a standstill on account of the problem of venue and arranging the Premiers' contact at the earliest date possible."

He expressed the hope that the venue might be easily decided upon without any objection to Pyongyang's proposal, if the Seoul side showed earnest desire and sincerity to realise the contact between the Premiers of the north and the south at the earliest date possible.

He urged the south side to produce its proposal.

The south side put forth its opinion on the question of venue.

In face of Pyongyang's honest and sincere approach to the contact between working-level delegates, the Seoul side was compelled to withdraw its insistence on having 'the Premiers' contact in a third country and agree to Pyongyang's momentous new proposal to choose Panmunjom as the venue. **Thus Panmunjom was decided upon as the venue of the contact of the Premiers of the north and the south as proposed by the Pyongyang side.**

Chief delegate Hyon Jun Guk said that at the previous contact he had made a proposal for a switch-over on the question of the agenda of the Premiers' contact, too.

Question of Agenda

Either in view of the contents of the letters exchanged between the Premiers of the two sides or in view of the nature of the Premiers' contact, there is no need to define the agenda beforehand.

Then the chief delegate of the DPRK side put forward a proposal on the agenda of the Premiers' contact. Explaining its justness, he proposed to define the agenda as follows:

"On Promoting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of the Country through North-South Collaboration and Unity in All Fields"

He stressed that this indicated the general goal and direction of the Premiers' contact and comprehensively showed ways for their realisation.

He stressed:

"Firstly, it accords with the nature of the Premiers' contact and the original purport of arranging this contact to adopt a single-item agenda.

"In proposing the Premiers' contact, we proceeded entirely from the purport that the Premiers of north and south Korea should meet each other and exchange views on dialogue and reunification questions without reserve, to which the south side agreed, making this contact between working-level delegates feasible.

"Therefore, we should see to it that the two Premiers meet each other and discuss all questions of mutual concern. We should not lay down a restriction or a limit on the questions to be taken up by the superiors at responsible positions, telling them what they should speak and what not.

"Secondly, the adoption of a comprehensive, single-item agenda is right also in view of the original mission of our working-level delegates' contact.

"If we begin to argue about the agenda of the Premiers' contact, dividing it into details, overstepping our mission, we will, eventually, find ourselves touching upon the content of the questions to be taken up at the Premiers' contact and talk in advance about what the Premiers should speak in their stead.

"Thirdly, if a comprehensive, single-item agenda is defined, it will help close this contact of the working-level delegates quickly and open earlier the contact of the Premiers.

"If detailed and miscellaneous agenda items are discussed, it will inevitably prolong the contact of the working-level delegates and, in the long run, delay the Premiers' contact indefinitely for regulating the agenda and, furthermore, it may result in foiling the arrangement of the Premiers' contact itself.

"Whether the Premiers' contact is effective or not depends on the basic stand and stance of the two sides towards the contact, not on whether the agenda is made detailed or not."

The two sides agreed upon continuing the discussion on the agenda of the Premiers' contact at the next contact.

Agreed Points

At the contact of March 18, the two sides agreed upon the following points:

The Question of Venue

1. Panmunjom shall be the place of the contact between the Premiers of the north and the south.

2. The contact of the Premiers shall be alternately held at the Panmungak Pavilion and the "House of Freedom" in Panmunjom.

3. The venue of the contact may be changed by agreement between the Premiers of the two sides in future.

The Question of Accompanying Personnel and Their Composition

1. The accompanying personnel attending the Premiers' contact to assist the Premiers shall consist of four advisors at the level of Minister, Vice-Minister and Department Director of the Administration Council and four technical and working-level personnel from each side.

2. Other necessary suite members and reporters shall be decided upon by each side as it sees fit.

The Question of Travel Procedures, Conveniences and Personal Safety

As to the procedures of travel across the Military Demarcation Line, offer of conveniences and guarantee of personal safety of the Premiers and their accompanying personnel, working-level delegates appointed respectively by the chief delegates shall meet and discuss them.

The two sides agreed upon having the fifth contact of the working-level delegates in the southern portion of Panmunjom on April 1.

KOREA FOCUS

"Government-Led" Constitutional Amendment ?

In south Korea today, a full-scale consideration of the constitutional amendment is under way. An ad hoc parliamentary committee on a constitutional revision began its activities at the outset of December last, where rival draft constitutions have already submitted by both the ruling Democratic Republican Party and the Opposition New Democratic Party. Constitutional jurists and bar associations have unveiled their own drafts. The National Assembly is in the process of unifying those drafts.

Against this backdrop, the Choi Gyu Ha regime on March 13 activated a presidential advisory committee on the deliberations of the constitutional amendment ostensibly to get broader-based opinions from the public. The inauguration of that organ is the declaration of the authorities to have their way regarding the projected constitutional revision.

In his December 21 inaugural address Choi Gyu Ha indicated a dominant governmental involvement in the adoption of a new constitution, by saying, "The issue of a constitutional amendment should not be dealt with at the level of political parties and organizations."

Generally speaking, any given constitution mirrors the political situation at the time of its promulgation. The present process in south Korea can not become an exception.

The current political scene can be characterized by a decisive choice between the restoration of full democracy and the continuation of *yusin* politics. The National Union for Democracy and Territorial Reunification in its March 1 statement observed: "The people at large cannot avoid the impression that what those in power and persons bestowed with all sorts of privileges under *yusin* are doing and saying is a struggle against the advance of our national history as it it motivated with the preoccupation with the safeguarding of their political and economic vested interests. It is the first duty to do away with the old regime and install a new government based on the genuine consent of the population in order to achieve real democracy and advance our national history." Their demand is that a democratic government and the restoration of democracy must come before the amendment of the constitution.

Many contradictions are coming to the fore in the process of the effort for the constitutional amendment. The most prominent is the application of the *yusin* constitution in the process of the constitutional amendment whose main aim is to deny the authoritarian charter. The declaration adopted at the November 24 national rally in Seoul to frustrate the election of a new president under the *yusin* constitution called for the establishment of a democratic coalition cabinet to manage the transitional period till the installation of a new democratic government. The constitutional amendment from the revise-the-constitution-first-and-elect-a-new-president-next viewpoint would produce no conflict because it would conform to the national aspirations of the population for full democracy and for the abolition of the *yusin* constitution.

Nevertheless, it is the present authorities and the National Assembly dominated by the *yusin* forces that are pressing with the revision of the constitution. They argue for the "government-led" or the "National Assembly-led" constitutional amendment, despite the fact that the whole population should be the party to that undertaking. The move for the revision of the constitution by the *yusin* forces is naturally to lead to the maintenance of the *yusin* policy. In that case, there would be no doubt that the denial of *yusin* would never come.

For the two obvious reasons, the Choi Gyu Ha authorities have repeatedly promised to undertake the amendment sometime at the end of 1980, without giving any set schedule. One is to cover up their intention to preserve *yusin*, and the other to determine the extent of the behavior of the National Assembly, the Opposition parties and the democratic dissident forces and to gain time needed in order to find an effective response to it. For example, the November anti-government Seoul rally came as a great shock to the *yusin* forces as its sponsors comprised not only various social sectors but also members of the ruling party.

As a matter of fact, Choi Gyu Ha has steadfastly followed the policy of inheriting *yusin* in concert with the (*yujonghoe*) (a group of Pak Jung Hi-appointed members of the National Assembly). According to the February 28 issue of *The Dong-A Ilbo*, Choi told the February 9 meeting of leaders of his regime and the ruling party: "I hope for the continuation of the National Conference for Unification (the electoral college)." He made the following remark on March 11 in his meeting with the executives of the *yujonghoe*: "The recent debate on the constitutional revision lacks due attention to the issue of national security." A foreign news agency report dated March 14 from Seoul quoted Choi Gyu Ha as saying that "a new constitution should ban any overheated presidential campaign" and added that he seemed to be for an indirect presidential election. The *yujonghoe* has fully endorsed the statements of Choi, of course.

In a meeting of chiefs of missions abroad held on March 11, "Premier" Sin Hyon Hwak declared: "The Government attaches primary importance to national security in its policy conduct, then followed by the economic issue and thirdly by political development." His remark amounts to the abandonment of democracy.

It has become too obvious what the "government-controlled" constitutional amendment aims at.

At this juncture, New Democratic Party President Kim Yong Sam and Kim Dae Jung warn against the reactionary nature of the Choi regime and are strengthening their posture of fighting it. The prospect of democracy depends on whether the pro-*yusin* policy of the Choi regime is neutralized.

DPRK Weightlifter Sets Up World Flyweight Record

DPRK weightlifter Ho Bong Chol set up a world flyweight record at the Second International Youth Weightlifting Tournament for "Grand Prix" held in Berlin, the capital of the German Democratic Republic, on March 9.

Jerking 135 kilograms he bettered the junior world record by 4.5 kilograms in the 52kg category.

He came off the winner in total points in the flyweight event to carry away "Grand Prix."

In the 56 kg category DPRK weightlifter Choe Jong Sop took first place by lifting 107.5 kilograms and 137.5 kilograms in the snatch and jerk. He won the prize of technique.

In another category DPRK weightlifter Pak Bong Jun placed second by lifting 315 kilograms (140 kilograms and 175 kilograms in the snatch and jerk).

Pyongyang's Serious Commitment to N-S Reunion Talks

Latest Talks

The latest series of north-south talks have been initiated by the DPRK, whose top officials on Feb. 11 sent responsible persons of the south Korean political parties, organizations and authorities letters calling for multilateral or bilateral contacts for arranging a north-south dialogue and promoting the independent reunification of the country.

As an initial result of these endeavors, Pyongyang and Seoul reached an agreement to have a contact between the Premiers of both sides, contacts between the working-level delegates took place to arrange it.

Pyongyang's peace overtures in the form of letters were significant in various points. Firstly, the proposals bear the names of top officials of the DPRK. When the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, on Jan. 23, 1979, set forth a four-point proposal, the south Koreans took issue with what it termed "the unofficial nature" of the proposal in order to refuse the Jan. 23 four-point proposal.

Secondly, the letters state Pyongyang's willingness to engage not only in talks between responsible officials long advocated by Seoul but in broader-based political consultations.

First Talks

The current round of talks is the third since the first talks in 1972, the year when both north and south Korea confirmed the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity in their joint statement.

The first series of north-south talks were held over the July 4 north-south joint statement.

In October that year, the just started north-south talks suffered a major setback as the Pak junta promulgated the notorious "*yusin* constitution" to ensure one-man rule for Pak Jung Hi. The dialogue became a very poor argument for the increased authoritarian Pak "regime."

The first north-south contacts were ruptured because of the continuous pursuance of the two-Korea policy by the Pak junta and because of its act of suppressing democratic dissident forces in south Korea.

Second Talks

President Kim Il Sung, in his Sep. 9, 1978 report to the central celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, made it clear that the DPRK followed the policy of solving the country's reunification through dialogue and negotiation.

The DPRK's official and authoritative organization, the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, on Jan. 23, 1979, set forth 4-point proposal including a proposal for a pan-national congress.

The DPRK called for an end to all calumnies and slanders against the other side as from Feb. 1 and also for the discontinuation of any military actions which might stimulate the other side as from March 1. Pyongyang put them into practice as it promised.

But Seoul continued to use the term "northern puppet" in referring to the DPRK, Americans and south Koreans staged "Team Spirit '79", from Mar. 1.

Thanks to the flexible attitude taken by the Pyongyang side, there took place three rounds of contact between the liaison delegates of the north and the south to form a preparatory committee for national reunification.

Denounces U.S. Military Moves In S. Korea

—At 399th Meet of MAC—

At the 399th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC), the Pyongyang side protested against and called the U.S. to account for the large-scale war exercises it is conducting in a simulated attack upon the DPRK after introducing into south Korea a huge number of aggression armed forces in gross violation of the Armistice Agreement.

"In the light of their scale, contents and duration, the exercises are real war manoeuvres and all-round attack operation exercises aimed at expeditiously throwing U.S. mobile forces into the Korean front and the purpose is to speed up war preparations for attacking the northern half of the Republic," said Major General Han Ju Gyong, Senior Member of the Pyongyang side.

The Pyongyang meeting was called on March 13 by the Pyongyang side to protest "Team Spirit '80", a major U.S.-south Korea combined military exercise now under way in south Korea.

Maj. Gen. Han Ju Gyong queried the enemy side what compels it to aggravate military confrontation by firing shells and dropping bombs near the Military Demarcation Line despite the fact that the contacts between working-level delegates are being held for the arrangement of a contact between the Premiers of north and south Korea to solve the question of the country's reunification peacefully and by the Korean people themselves.

The United States and south Korea have conducted several military exercises such as "Magex '80", "Unfailing Victory", "Joint ROK-U.S. Air Supply Exercise" and "Shield '80" one after another from the beginning of this year and the largest-scale "Team Spirit '80", aimed without doubt at attacking the DPRK.

Indications are that today the danger of war in Korea comes not from the north but from the south.

Medicare: North and South

	NORTH	SOUTH
Population	17.0 Mil. (on estimate)	37.0 Mil. (Korea Annual, 1979)
Average Life Expectancy Man Woman	70 76 (Report of Premier Li Jong Ok, Dec. 16, 1977)	66 (1975) 70 (Korea Year Book, 1979)
Is medical care free of charge?	Yes Consultation, examination, operation, medicines and meals served during hospitalization, are all free of charge. A nation-wide complete free medical care system was introduced in 1953.	No Poor people have no access to medical care.
No. of inhabitants per doctor	285 (on estimate) With the introduction of a section-doctor system, everyone has a doctor assigned to him or to her. Doctors pay visits to people on a regular basis.	2,571 People must make a long line and wait for 4 to 5 hours for medical examination. (Dong-A Ilbo, Oct. 10, 1979)
Distribution of medical facilities including hospitals	No significant gap between urban and rural areas. Wherever people work and live, medical centers are found.	89% of medical institutions are in cities. There are 221 myeon(subcounty) without any hospital. (Dong-A Ilbo, Nov. 2, 1979)
What percentage of people in rural areas receive medical treatment when they fall ill?	100 %	12.7 % (Dong-A Ilbo, Oct. 16,1979)
Do doctors and nurses contract diseases while treating patients?	No	Yes 28% of doctors and nurses are affected. (The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, Dec. 23, 1979)
Does V.D. exist?	No V.D. was completely eliminated following the liberation.	Yes 24% of the workers of the Pohang District were infected with syphilis. (The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, Dec. 5, 1979)
Are medical equipment such as X-ray cameras defective?	No	Yes 95 % of X-ray cameras at hospitals and clinics in Seoul are defective. Almost all the home-made apparatus are defective, while imported ones are obsolescent. (Hanguk Ilbo, Oct. 12, 1979)
Are medical instruments home-made?	Yes [illegible] of them are locally produced.	No 90% of them are imported. (Choson Ilbo, Nov. 29, 1979)
Food poisoning cases are	Rare.	Frequent. In the first 6 months of 1979, 378 (10 deaths) people were victims of food poisoning or 4 times the figure for 1978. (The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, July 6, 1979)
Is the population well-fed?	Yes	No 20% of the population suffer from dystrophy. (Chungang Ilbo, Feb. 14, 1979)
Parasite cases	Rare	Countless 80% of the inhabitants along the Kumgang River basin are infected by parasites. (Dong-A Ilbo, Dec. 14, 1979)
No. of mentally-retarded or physically-handicapped people	Few They receive proper education and care by the state.	1.08 Mil. 2.9 % of the population are mentally-retarded or physically-handicapped. Most of them are not accomodated into proper facilities nor do they receive special education. (Meil Sinmun, Jan. 10, 1980)
What about mental condition of farmers?	Sound	56% of the farmers suffer from psychoneurosis. Furthermore, each farmer has more than two diseases. (Taejon Ilbo, Jan. 10, 1980)
Childbirth	[illegible]% of mothers deliver their babies at well-equipped hospitals. They are granted a 77-day [illegible] maternity leave.	75% of mothers deliver at homes. Of them about 56% deliver their babies without the assistance of midwives. 2.28% begin their work within 3 days after delivery. (The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, Jan. 20, 1980)

A doctor regularly visits inhabitants in charge and teaches them working knowledge on preventive medicine.

South Korean people must wait for 4 to 5 hours for their 2-3 minute medical consultation. Photo: At the Seoul National University Hospital (Dong-A Ilbo, March 3, 1980)

For Freedom and Liberation (7) (Gist)

En Route to North Manchuria

— BY O JIN U —

Warm Care to Guerillas

Throughout the long years of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, Comrade Kim Il Sung looked after the men of the rank and file with utmost care, devoting himself to bringing us up and training us to be staunch revolutionary fighters.

In June 1935 I was with the 4th Company of the 5th Regiment of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. We set out on the historic expedition to North Manchuria under the direct command of Comrade Kim Il Sung. Still young, I found the expedition a grim trial, with test after test all the way.

It was in the course of this strenuous march that I saw how kind and warm-hearted Comrade Kim Il Sung was toward us guerillas To this day the experiences of those days live in my heart, and can never be eradicated.

Wherever we bivouacked in the forests, he saw to it that the men were first asleep, and only after looking around to make sure that all were asleep would he lie down for a short rest. He was always first up in the morning. More than once I saw him take the wet boots of sleeping men and set them before the campfire to dry in the dead of night while the men slept. The sight always moved me deeply.

Once we were preparing for the track after resting at a village. Comrade Kim Il Sung told the guerilla to put on their "dorogi" (a kind of Chinese leather shoes) which they had been carrying. I put on my "dorogi," the first time I had worn them. I found them very awkward to walk in. They would not stay on but slipped off every now and then.

Noticing this, Comrade Kim Il Sung came up and asked me to let him see my "dorogi." Saying nothing I pulled off one of them and showed it to him. He took it in his hands and looked at it closely to see what was wrong. He took out the straw lining, softening it and respreading it evenly. My face burned with shame at the thought that I was giving him trouble on such a trifling thing as my shoes, so I said that I could manage it myself.

"You headstrong man" he said in a kindly voice. "That won't do. That's not the way to wear 'dorogi.' You have to lay out the straw to fit your feet perfectly like this, then your feet will be warm and the shoes will not slip off. Now, come on with your other 'dorogi' and I'll fix it."

I couldn't refuse, so I handed it to him.

He pounded the straw until it was loose, and spread it again in the "dorogi," and arranged it so that the shoes fitted without hurting.

Now wearing the "dorogi" fixed by his own hand I felt I was moving with winged feet: that I could walk without stopping to rest.

'Point Is You Are Aware of Your Fault And Can Correct It'

Rallied firmly around him, we forged ahead through the rugged mountains and forests. After we crossed the borders of Chiaoho county our progress became even more difficult.

After marching through one night we came out to a valley as day was breaking and found charcoal scattered everywhere.

"How nice to make a fire with the charcoal to bivouac," we thought, and hurried about gathering charcoal. I did the same, gathering up a bundle.

We stopped at the top of the pass to rest. Exhausted from the long march, we sat down on the snow and some were asleep at once, and snoring.

Overcome with drowsiness, I felt I was sinking into the ground, so I tried to keep awake, rubbing my eyes with my hand. But it was no good. I just fell asleep right there.

When an order to move on came, out of my deep sleep I moved as in a dream. It was only when I heard the bustling sounds of the men rising and moving about that I opened my eyes. I jumped to my feet, carrying my charcoal pack.

But I still was not fully awake. Half sleeping, I walked for some distance, and suddenly sensed that something was missing: my shoulder was not carrying its usual weight though the bundle of charcoal was in my arms. It was my rifle!

I went weak inside. I turned back and, beside myself, ran back along the path in feverish haste to where we had just stopped to rest.

In a panic, I had no sense of distance. It could not be so far away, but it seemed like four or five kilometres. Panting I ran up the steep mountain side.

A little short of the top, I suddenly saw Comrade Kim Il Sung just coming down. He had stayed behind to look the whole place over. Seeing me he asked me casually.

"Where are you going, Comrade Jin U?"

At a loss, I stammered out "my r-r...rifle..." The words stuck in throat. Unable to say any more, I moved to go on. But Comrade Kim Il Sung took me by the arm and held me back.

"Don't lose your head," he said with a smile.

Then I saw that my rifle was slung over his shoulder. My face felt like fire. I stood in my tracks, not knowing what to say or do. My heart ached with remorse. Was it not a weapon of the revolution, won at the cost of the life of some comrade-in-arms? Why did I take it off my body for a moment?

With a guilty conscience, I cursed my carelessness.

Comrade Kim Il Sung told me to turn back and catch up with the unit, and then led the way, my gun on his shoulder.

I told him that I would carry the gun, but he wouldn't give it to me. Unable to say any more, I followed at his heels silently.

I was heavy of heart. Awkward with shame, anguish and self-reproach, I took up my position in the ranks, deeply downhearted.

But for some reason I could not fathom, my comrade burst out laughing the moment they saw me. They laughed and laughed, holding their sides, unable to contain themselves. Then, Comrade Kim Il Sung standing nearby looked at me and smiled.

He took a mirror out of his pocket and handed it to me. "Look," he said, "Just see what your face is like."

I put down the bundle of charcoal which I was hugging and took the mirror to look at myself. Good gracious! I was astounded at what I saw.

It was a real sight, my face. I was black all over, smeared with charcoal. My eyeballs gleamed white out of this black visage. I had rubbed my face with my dirty hands which were holding charcoal. Embarrassed, I looked quickly away from the mirror.

We marched on. The snowstorm raged in all its fury. But I scarcely felt the biting cold. One thought—my gun—gnawed at my heart. Even as I walked my mind was taken up entirely by the thought of the gun. I waited impatiently for Comrade Kim Il Sung to hand my gun back to me.

But he strode on along the mountain path without a word, my gun still on his shoulder. "By all appearances," I thought, "I'm in for a good scolding!" Not a little worried, I realized that no one was to blame but myself. The pangs of remorse for my carelessness bit deep into me.

Hours passed, but still Comrade Kim Il Sung said nothing about the gun. When we reached our destination, I slumped down heavily on the snow.

After a little, an orderly came and told me that Comrade Kim Il Sung wanted me. My heart began to pound. I could not calm myself.

What would he say? He would probably forbid me the gun for the time being or maybe punish me severely in some way.

Deeply uneasy, I stood at attention. He looked at me for a while, and then took up the gun standing beside him. He gave it to me and said in a quiet voice:

"You seemed very tired, so I carried your gun for you. I feel sure you'll not make the same mistake again. Now, take your gun."

A lump rose in my throat. Tears filled my eyes. Only now did I understand why he had carried my gun all day. My heart was too full for words.

I rather wished he had taken me to task hotly. Quite at a loss what to say, I fidgeted, standing awkwardly before him. At last I managed with difficulty to mumble:

"Comrade Commander...." But I choked up and could not say any more.

Seeming to read my mind clearly, he said in a kind voice, as if to soothe me:

"Your feelings are fully understandable... The point is that you are aware of your fault and can correct it. Now, go and rest."

He didn't say any more.

His few words at that time were far more effective in making me realize my fault than any kind of punishment or strictures he could have taken against me.

Tightly gripping my gun, I swore in my heart that more than ever I would courageously fight the enemy, braving fire and water if so ordered by him.

Carrying my gun, I walked as if the warm hand of Comrade Kim Il Sung were on my shoulder. With rising spirits I walked on in file.

(Subtitles are ours....Ed.)

—Industrial Establishments—

Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant with a power generation capacity of 1,000,000 kwh provides electric power to Pyongyang City, the capital of the DPRK.

Since 5-kw generators were operated there in 1963, the power plant has increased its production capacity year after year, reaching 200,000 kwh in 1964, 500,000 kwh in 1967, 1,000,000 kwh in 1971.

One of the main task of the 7-Year Plan (1961-1970) was to develop chemical industry and metallurgical industry by realizing technical renovations in the national economy. For this purpose, special emphasis was laid on the electric power industry.

Until 1959, 96.4 percent of the country's electric power was produced by hydraulic power stations so that the construction of more powerful thermal power stations was urgently needed.

The construction of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant became one of the most important projects at the 7-Year Plan.

Constructors made every effort to build a thermal power plant as fast as they could. Mechanical engineers did 15 days' work in only 5 days and excavator operators shortened excavating and earth moving times. Thanks to such efforts made by the constructors, the power plant was built in a short time.

In the 6-Year Plan (1971-1976), the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant workers fulfilled their 6-year tasks in only one year.

The power station not only produces electricity but also contributes toward providing better living conditions to the people.

About one million Pyongyang citizens use warm water and live in well heated rooms, using steam from the power station. A city-wide central heating system was completed thanks to the construction and operation of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant.

When the pressure gauge reads 14 atms and temperature reaches 150°C in the heating room of the power station, its water valve opens automatically and water begins to flow out fast. Electricity made by the water flow and it heats water. About 2,000 tons of hot water flows through steel pipes per hour. These pipes carry hot water to all apartment houses in Pyongyang and heat them.

Moreover, city water is heated by hot water from the power plant and is sent to all households in the city.

After completion of the central heating system, chimneys of boilers disappeared from the apartment houses of Pyongyang.

(Concluded)

A view of the generator room of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant

Importance of Military Deescalation

There is no overestimating the importance of undertaking military deescalation on the Korean Peninsula through negotiated efforts. Military deescalation carries profound implications for the reunification of the divided peninsula and for the preservation of the peace and security of Northeast Asia. There is a real threat of hostilities being resumed at any moment which will instantly expand into an international war.

The attitude to this issue is a good test of the commitment to the negotiated reunification of Korea and the peace of that part of Asia. It is the firm refusal by Pyongyang to be provoked by an American-south Korean military blackmailing that has prevented so far the resumption of hostilities. As President Kim Il Sung put it, "First of all, we maintain that military confrontation should be eliminated and tensions be removed between north and south in order to improve relations and accelerate the country's peaceful reunification."

OBJECTIVES

President Kim Il Sung pursues at least three key objectives in achieving military deescalation: first, to remove mutual distrust and misunderstanding; second, to build intra-national unity and improve north-south relations; and third, to deter the recurrence of conflict. It is also true that arms control and troop reductions will enable both Pyongyang and Seoul to direct more resources to the expansion of the economy and the improvement of the living standards and to help restore democracy in south Korea.

The explosive confrontation of heavily-equipped two armies, over 1 million strong in all, across the DMZ, with nuclear-armed U.S. forces deployed in south Korea, has been and is, a main source of tensions between north and south, generating seemingly irreconcilable mistrust and misunderstanding. With such state left intact, there will be no prospect of confidence-building and subsequent joint efforts toward the eventual improved north-south understanding with regard to the reunification issue.

It is ridiculous and near impossible to have north-south talks and carry out arms buildup in a show of muscle. It is mandatory to lay down arms in order to bring negotiations to success and take confidence-building measures. Anybody muscling while agreeing to engage in talks will lose his credibility.

In the absence of military tensions, it will become quite feasible to build north-south unity and improve relations between Pyongyang and Seoul, involving activated bilateral and multilateral interchange and cooperation in many areas. With an end to tensions will go the long-held fear and hatred of each other, producing common ground for joint projects, political, economic, social, and cultural.

National unity, one of the prerequisites for the negotiated settlement of the reunification question, has been prevented by the many years of a near-war confrontation. In particular, in south Korea, the allegations against Pyongyang have been a rationale for denying its people democracy and human rights and inspire them with anti-Communism.

The war policy of the Americans and their clients in Seoul makes it urgent to defuse the situation in Korea. For them, sabre-rattling is a familiar action to meet domestic and international consumption needs. The "two-Korea" plan has been justified and followed on the ground that the division of the land is beneficial because the continuing military confrontation leaves no possibility of its reintegration.

By citing the explosive situation does Seoul try to justify the presence of the *yusin* dictatorship and the repression of the movement for reunification. It is a reason produced to rationalize dependence on Americans, the Japanese and other foreign forces. They, for their part, see pretexts to isolate Pyongyang and drive a wedge between the northerners and the southerners, a condition which allows them to maintain a hold on south Korea as their colony and military base.

ARMS LIMITATION TALKS

It is necessary to define the scope of arms limitation talks. Technically speaking, arms limitation talks may be conducted between any belligerents and even between advocates of peace and authoritarians, sometimes between those who refuse to recognize each other as legitimate representatives of the respective peoples. Therefore, it stands to reason to propose arms limitation talks between Pyongyang and Seoul and those between Pyongyang and Washington.

Arms control talks can be organized either at high government levels or at levels of military authorities. Such military talks can precede political, economic, cultural and social cooperation and interchange. Without that kind of cooperation, troop reductions can be negotiated, pending mutual diplomatic recognition. A crucial factor is whether there is any serious interest in reducing tensions.

Effective safeguards can be taken promptly to secure strict compliance with any agreement emerging from such arms control negotiations. In the first place, the narrowness of the Korean Peninsula is suitable for workable verification measures. Secondly, the weapons involved are mainly conventional and tactical, far from strategic. Thirdly, any outside power can quickly and easily monitor any violation.

Military deescalation talks can adopt the following five-point agenda tentatively suggested by Pyongyang in the words of President Kim Il Sung: "...as the first step towards the peaceful reunification of the country, we have put before the south Korean authorities more than once this five-point proposal: cessation of the reinforcement of armies and the arms race, withdrawal of all foreign troops, reduction of armed forces and armaments, ending of the introduction of weapons from outside and conclusion of a peace agreement."

The above points can become more specific as follows:

(1) Discontinuing the military buildup and the arms race is the initial step. The arms race is a never-ending vicious circle which cannot guarantee any lasting security as it will lead to nuclear holocaust instead of bringing Korea nearer to a peaceful reunification.

(2) Withdrawal of all foreign forces dramatizes the restoration of mutual confidence within the Korean people and the nonexistence of the alleged threat from the north. The presence of American troops and nuclear weapons in south Korea stands in the way of any independent and negotiated settlement of the Korean question. The American presence is a military underpinning of the "two-Korea" policy and the denial of democracy.

(3) Arms control and troop reductions represent a major step forward. The reductions of troops to 100,000 men or less each leaves a total of 200,000 men, sufficient to jointly defend the Korean Peninsula from foreign invaders. The deployment of huge numbers of heavily-armed troops face to face may lead to the start of a new round of war simply due to one single provocation or miscalculation. It causes a vast drain on the Korean people north and south.

(4) Any step for arms control without banning the introduction of weapons abroad makes no sense at all. A total ban on the shipment to Korea of weapons has significance equal to troop reductions. It serves to remove the foothold for a foreign power to use in influencing the domestic matters of Korea through military assistance or the sale of weapons.

(5) A peace agreement provides a legal framework whereby to bring a durable peace and security to Korea. Missing there is an agreement on lasting peace. The present armistice accord is temporary in nature, providing for a ceasefire only, placing Korean Peninsula technically at the state of war. Consequently, the parties to the truce accord reserve the right to commence military action against each other at any moment.

A peace agreement is normally to sort out all the issues of territorial settlements, war preparations and war criminals, committing the warring parties to peace. For two reasons, a peace agreement must be concluded without loss of time as far as Korea is concerned. Firstly, the present accord is outdated, and secondly, there is no legal guarantee of peace.

Provided that the south Korean authorities have neither any will nor any competence because of their subjugation to American operational control through various treaty provisions, a peace agreement may be negotiated between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America. Signatories to the 1953 armistice agreement, both Pyongyang and Washington and duty-bound to discuss and conclude a peace agreement to replace the present one.

A Pyongyang-Washington peace agreement may call for the following four points: (1) pledge of non-aggression and steps to remove the threat of direct armed clashes; (2) a stop to the arms buildup and race a ban on the introduction of weapons into Korea; (3) the disbanding of the UN command in south Korea and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from there; and (4) a ban on Korea becoming a military base of any given foreign power after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea.

Crisis-Torn S. Korean Economy

The steady drop of the U.S. dollar during the past year has led to a 12 per cent devaluation of the south Korean won, according to the Seoul economic authorities.

Bound to the U.S. dollar, south Korea suffers big losses every year, receiving a ruinous impact on the economy.

The Seoul officials have incessantly inducted foreign capital under the pretext of modernization and high-rate economic growth.

Even official data put the total amount of foreign capital inducted into south Korea at over 14,250 million dollars as of the end of 1979.

The crisis of the U.S. economy divested the dollar long ago of its credit standing as an international standard currency.

In recent years, south Korea has been hardest hit by the uncontrollable fall of the value of the dollar and the relative rise of other currencies.

For example, in London, the pound sterling-dollar exchange rate which was 1:2.0345 in January last year, became 1:2.2420 in December and 1:2.2515 on January 17 this year.

The foreign currencies kept in the south Korean banks are cash loans borrowed from foreign monopolies at high interest and 93% of them are in dollars.

The dollar-yen exchange rate changed from 1:295 in December 1978 to 1:246.97 in November last year. Calculated on this basis, south Korea suffered in less than one year a loss of 1,250 million dollars, before having time to use the cash loans.

The fall of the value of the dollar and the rise of that of other currencies increase the foreign debts of south Korea.

The principal of the foreign loans to be paid to foreign monopolies by south Korea run into 10,500 million dollars this year.

But the depreciation of the U.S. dollar automatically added 1,260 million dollars last year on the shoulders of south Korea. When the increased interest on their debts is alarmingly high.

The depreciation of the dollar has had a ruinous effect not only on the foreign trade but also on the industry of south Korea.

The sharp fall of the value of the dollar has caused inflation and further deteriorated the people's living in south Korea.

Worse still, the south Korean authorities on January 12 devalued the won again by 19.8%, against the U.S. dollar. This resulted in making the south Korean economy more dependent on the U.S. dollar.

The amount of south Korea's foreign loans to be repaid this year has increased to 400 million dollars, the additional burden in imports due to the won devaluation is estimated at 2,800 million dollars and a price hike of 50 to 80% is foreseen by a conservative estimate.

The value of the U.S. dollar is still on the downhill this year.

All these facts show that south Korea should get rid of colonial dependence on the U.S. and that it can attain nothing by clinging to the policy of relying on outside forces.

Inflation

In a desperate effort to tide over the ever-deepening crisis, the Economic Planning Board recently announced measures to contain inflation and stabilize the crippled economy.

Notwithstanding this, ominous signs are omnipresent on the economic scene. Among other things, soaring prices are adding fuel to the current runaway inflation.

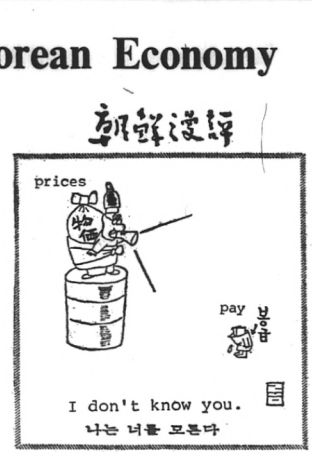
The south Korean Economic Planning Board disclosed on Feb. 25 that wholesale prices registered a rapid 17.5% advance as of Feb. 15, consumer prices an 8.1% increase. Wholesale prices advanced in one and a half months to two thirds of the margin of gain set by the government for this year.

The increase works out at 2.3% in the terms of wholesale prices in one month alone, 3.4% in consumer prices, a sharp increase of four times over a year before. Wholesale prices registered a sharp 17.5%, gain by Feb. 15, a 15.2% advance in a month. This represents the largest monthly increase, greatly surpassing annual increases in the past—12.1% in 1976, 9% in 1977 and 11.7% in 1975. There seems to be no end to the skyrocketing prices.

Bankruptcies

Enterprises are suffering from financial difficulties and workers are being fired en masse in south Korea owing to the devaluation of the south Korean money in comparison with the U.S. dollar, a raise in the bank interest rates and price hikes of oil and various raw materials and products, electric power and service charges.

It is reported that 135 minor enterprises closed their doors and 413 drastically curtailed operation after January 12 in North Kyongsang Province alone. As a result, over 6,000 workers were rendered jobless and 5,580 others are on the point of unemployment.



The situation is no better for comprador and big enterprises, either.

The Ulsan Factory of Hyundae Automobile in South Kyongsang Province is hardly in operation, affected by the oil crisis. In January alone, it laid off more than 1,000 workers. There is hardly any hope for their reinstatement.

Over 2,000 workers were sacked by Hyundae Company in Changwon in the same province, which is on the verge of bankruptcy due to the business depression.

Even Samsong, Daeu, Hyundae and other big enterprises find it difficult to seek a way out of the depression, even if they may resort to production cuts and mass dismissals of workers.

Minor fisheries in South Chungchong and South Cholla provinces offer their fishing boats for sale, after suffering continuous deficits in fishing operations. In Ryosu, South Cholla Province alone, more than 100 boats are offered for sale.

In Tongrae district, Pusan, last year, at 52 enterprises wages of workers were in arrears of payment, which amounted to more than 1,890 million won.

Moreover, the bankruptcies of enterprises increase the miseries of the south Korean people.

The decline of south Korean enterprises and the deterioration of the people's lives are being further accelerated this year.

By the end of July last year 1,697 minor factories had gone bankrupt or closed doors in south Korea due to financial and marketing difficulties and quite a few big enterprises had been compelled to suspend business owing entirely to the shortage of funds.

Increasing Trade Deficit

The worsening of trading conditions in recent years is one of the factors for increasing south Korea's trade deficits.

An announcement by the south Korean Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that the dollars spent increased 22.1% with hardly any growth in the volume of imports in 1979 due to the raised unit prices of imports.

Contrarily, unit prices of exports were nailed down to bring about a loss of over 4,490 million dollars.

South Korea recorded a huge trade deficit of 2,349 million dollars in 1978, a sharp increase against the 1977 figure of 764 million dollars.

It is noteworthy that the trade deficit with Japan increased nearly two times in 1978, up three billion dollars from 1,778 million dollars of 1977.

The deficit of south Korea in the trade account was two billion dollars in 1974 and 1.8 billion dollars in 1975, the year of the Arab oil squeeze.

The renewed worldwide "energy crisis" is making the south Korean economy to its foundations, causing an ever-expanding trade deficit. It is feared that south Korea will see a record trade deficit this year.

South Korea which depends on foreign countries from the purchase of raw materials to the sale of commodities bears a heavy burden every year owing to the rising import prices of raw materials from foreign countries. Worse still, goods processed with imported raw materials cannot sell at proper prices because of import restrictions by capitalist countries.

From an economic point of view, south Korea is being brought to a critical point.

Growing Industrial Accidents

In south Korea, there are prevalent criticisms against the high growth-oriented industrialization policy which had been followed in the '70s by the slain Pak Jung Hi regime.

The south Korean people now strongly demand Choe Gyu Ha's caretaker government scrap the high-growth economic policy which has deprived them of their fundamental right to live as human beings. They point out that this policy has increased the rate of industrial accidents to the highest level in the world.

15 Times Japan

The rate of industrial accidents reaches 0.19 percent of the total populations or 15 times that of Japan and five times higher than in the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, according to data released by the YWCA in Seoul. (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, Mar. 6, 1980).

The Seoul YWCA held on March 3 a special public hearing on a "Better Compensation System for Industrial Accidents" and called on the "government" to expand the scope of application of the industrial casualty insurance system.

According to the YWCA data, a total of 1,397 workers died and 124,800 others were injured in industrial accidents in 1978. The death rate was nine times higher in mining than in other sectors.

The disability rate in mining accidents was five times higher according to Wi Sung Han, a member of a team which conducted a survey on accidents in industrial facilities. (*The Chungang Ilbo*, Mar. 8, 1980)

Of late, industrial accidents are occurring at a high rate.

Seven technicians at the Hyundai Heavy Industrial Corp. died of suffocation on January 17 when a fire broke out in the boiler room of a Nigerian multipurpose cargo vessel which was under construction at the company's pier in Chonhadong, Ulsan, South Kyongsang Province. (*The Korea Herald*, Jan. 19, 1980)

Among the recent industrial accidents were the explosion of dynamite in the Hambaek Mine in Kangwon Province which left 42 colliers dead and a fire in the Unsong Mining Company, which took the lives of 40 colliers and injured 30 others.

Poor Safety Measures

The continued increase in industrial accidents is attributable to the negligence of the authorities and profit-seeking employers under their protection in the enforcement of labour safety measures and to the excessively long working hours.

The February 23 issue of the daily "*Kukche Sinmun*" said: "It is an undeniable fact that a large number of enterprises, mad about making money, are not concerned at all about elementary labour safety devices."

Even the Office of Labour on Feb. 23 said: "99.3 percent of all the industrial accidents could have been avoided if a mandatory industrial safety and health management measures had been enforced by enterprises to prevent industrial accidents and industry-related injuries and diseases." (*The Chosun Ilbo*, Feb. 24, 1980)

Occupational Diseases

Occupational diseases attributable to harmful labour environment and the lack of labour safety devices accelerate the increase in industrial accidents.

According to data published in June last by the Seoul branch of the National General Federation of Motors, 93.2 percent of taxi drivers in Seoul are suffering from nervous breakdown or convulsion of limbs due to overwork of 18 hours a day.

Data collected from a questionnaire to 345 taxi drivers in Seoul said that drivers who had worked for more than 3 years had 2-3 occupational diseases on an average. (*The Chungang Ilbo*, June 19, 1979)

Even according to doctored figures released by the above-mentioned Office of Labour, the number of sufferers from occupational diseases increased by 4,515 in 1978 in south Korea.

Forty percent of the workers in the Masan Export Free Zone where enterprises are run mainly by Japanese are sufferers from various occupational diseases. Over 60 percent of the workers who have worked for more than 10 years there are afflicted by incurable occupational diseases. (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, Feb. 17, 1980)

Coverage of the industrial accident insurance system should be expanded with emphasis placed on a raise in compensation levels.

In order to decrease the rate of industrial accidents, labour laws including the Industrial Accident Compensation and Insurance Law should be improved and researches should be undertaken into the causes of industrial accidents, studies should be made on the development and dissemination of the methods of preventing industrial accidents and diseases, the training of industrial safety management personnel and other scientific studies closely related to the question of industrial hazards should be conducted. (*The Chosun Ilbo*, Mar. 4, 1980)

On the contrary, the Office of Labour urges that big employers should terminate investments in labour safety devices, saying that each investment could lead to stagnation of the economy.

Photo shows a pitiable scene of the fire incident in the Unsong Mine which occurred in October last.

EDITORIAL

Democracy Needs Repeal of "Yusin" System

The Seoul officials, reluctant to accept any rapid development in the political field, are trying to make believe that they are making all-out efforts to restore complete democracy in south Korea—the revocation of the "presidential emergency decrees", the release of some of political offenders and a move toward the constitutional amendment. They said that a radical democratization would invite social disorder.

The characteristic and basic stance of the Choe Gyu Ha regime is clearly seen in the fact that the present government, describing the present situation as "overheated politics", is bent on cracking down on the people calling for democracy and freedom.

In the March 10 interview with the Japanese daily "Sankei Shimbun", prime minister Sin Hyon Hwak declared there would be no radical democratization which would imply an utter repudiation of the late Pak's ruling structure.

"There cannot be a speedy democratization such as would totally reject the yusin system," he said. He added that the "yusin system" in some respects was necessary in order to defense buildup and economic development. Sin emphasized that a radical transformation of the existing system would be destructive and lead to chaos.

His remark is a challenge to the people engaged in the democratic struggle against the 18-year "yusin" dictatorship. This shows how desperately the "yusin" remnants are striving to prolong the "yusin" rule.

Bitterly criticizing Sin's remark, the New Democratic Party demanded that the present officials carry out speedy democratization measures at an emergency party meeting held on March 15.

"Martial law" has kept clamped down on the whole of south Korea since Pak Jung Hi was shot to death by his intelligence chief on Oct. 26 last. There are such evil laws as the "anti-communist law", the "national security law" and the "public security law" enforced in order to suppress democracy and freedom.

The Seoul authorities, on their part, are stressing the fictitious "threat of southward invasion from the north" in order to create a war atmosphere, at a time when the north-south dialogue has been resumed for the independent and peaceful reunification.

The consensus of the south Korean people is that a radical democratization is necessary to get over social chaos and economic crisis. Kim Jong Pil, president of the Democratic Republican Party, also said on Feb. 27 that democratization should be declared as first task of the state.

The Seoul regime gives top priority to national security, followed by economic stability and political development.

Addressing the annual conference of the south Korean diplomatic mission chiefs in the Asian and American regions which was held on March 11, prime minister Sin Hyon Hwak said that debates only on political development might hamper their efforts to stabilize the economy and to strengthen "national security."

He contended that some people were asserting that "all things in the past are wrong and should be done away with completely but their remarks may lead to national confusion."

This is little difference from the view of president Choe Gyu Ha who expressed his stance toward democratization at the presidential inaugural ceremony at the end of last year and the New Year press conference this year.

As a matter of fact, south Korea faces a serious economic crisis. However, there is no reason why top priority should be given to "national security"—when there is no threat of southward invasion from the north. There is no objective conditions which require that the evil laws including the "anti-communist law", the "national security law" and the "public security law" should be enforced in south Korea.

The people call upon the Choe Gyu Ha regime, a caretaker government, to abolish the "yusin" system at the earliest possible date and step up preparations for a democratic regime.

In December last year, the "National Union for Democracy and National Reunification" issued a statement demanding the promotion of democratization, setting the date of a power change on the coming August 15.

Yun Bo Son, the ex-president, calling for the need to promote the democratization of society in a letter he sent on Feb. 17 to president Choe Gyu Ha in which he refused the president's requests to become a member of the advisor council on state affairs.

Nevertheless, the Seoul officials postponing the period of constitutional amendment until next spring, are bent on dividing democratic forces, taking advantage of some confusion related to the selection of a presidential candidate.

The Choe regime is scheming to maintain the "national conference for unification" and to have members of the "Yujonghoe" take part in the constitutional revision.

Social confusion is produced by the "yusin" remnants who are keen on curbing democracy and freedom. "Menace to national security" is due to crackdowns on the people striving for democracy and freedom.

Pyongyang Flays A-10s Arrival In S. Korea

The United States plans to permanently deploy soon a group of close support fighter planes "A-10", up-to-date combat aircraft, in south Korea to reinforce GIs there.

In this connection, Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea) on March 12 carried a signed commentary headlined "Challenge to Peace and Peaceful Reunification".

Follows its gist:

The arms buildup on the part of the United States is creating a climate detrimental to the contact now in progress between the north and the south. The deployment of the "A-10" war planes is another big threat to the north-south contact and dialogue.

Washington's arms buildup in south Korea is only bringing tension to a higher pitch and increasing the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula.

Is it not as plain as noonday that the augmentation of lethal weapons including nuclear arms and thickening powder smoke of military exercises in south Korea will inevitably undermine peace on the Korean Peninsula?

The U.S. authorities are loud-mouthed about peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, but its acts totally gainsay this.

If the United States truly want peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification and approve north-south contact and dialogue for reunification, it should desist from untenable acts throwing a cold blanket over this.

It is very foolish of the U.S., if it think that it can threaten the Korean people, permanently force division upon them and occupy south Korea with "strength."

The United States should know that it can get nothing with "strength."

It must stop building up arms in south Korea, take its hand of interference off Korea and withdraw from south Korea its troops and lethal weapons including nuclear arms without delay.

The United States should know that, if it persisted in taking hold on south Korea and obstructing the independent and peaceful reunification of our country, the results would never be good to it.

World-Wide Criticisms of "Team Spirit '80"

The 51-day U.S.-south Korea combined war game codenamed "Team Spirit '80" staging from March 1 now becomes the target of worldwide criticisms as the scheme to pour cold water on the favourable climate for north-south dialogue and generate tension on the Korean Peninsula. Follow highlights of their criticisms:

Foreign Press

The Indian paper "Janayug" March 6 said:

The United States is throwing cold water on the talks when contact between working-level delegates of the north and the south is in progress for the reunification of Korea. Such act of the United States is an act aimed at stepping up its manoeuvre for a permanent division of Korea and opposing the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Noting that the occupation of south Korea by the U.S. troops is the chief obstacle to the reunification of Korea, the paper stressed that the U.S. troops must be totally withdrawn from south Korea.

The French paper "l'Humanite" March 4 said: The U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises are a grave encroachment upon peace in Korea and Asia and a provocative act obstructing Korean reunification.

The Danish paper "Information" March 4 said:

The United States and south Korea seek to increase tension in Korea and bring to a rupture the north-south dialogue arranged with much difficulty by staging the military exercises at a time when the dialogue is going on.

RPR

A spokesman of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification March 12 made public a statement denouncing Washington's criminal acts in launching "Team Spirit '80" and rendering the situation strained.

The statement said:

The "Team Spirit '80" exercises are an open military action of U.S. to threaten and blackmail the forces of democracy and reunification advancing with indomitable valour and give a shot in the arm to the remnants of *yusin* on the verge of death, while feverishly inciting hostile feelings between the north and the south and clouding the atmosphere of dialogue for reunification.

In this the U.S. seeks to arrest the daring movement of our people for democracy and reunification which will expand and develop to a nation-wide scale, escape the pllitical crisis they are facing and, at the same time, to perfect the war capacity of northward aggression.

They are scheming to instigate the remnant forces of *yusin* to cool the sentiments of our people for democracy and reunification with the consciousness of overstrained military tension and bridge over the worst crisis of their colonial rule. But this is a foolish dream never feasible.

We strongly urge the U.S. and the remnants of *yusin* to discontinue at once the anachronistic war exercise "Team Spirit-'80", desisting from obstructing the democratization of society and the reunification of the country and jeopardizing peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The United States should put a stop to its crime-ridden history in which it has imposed immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings upon our people, illegally occupying this land, and pull out right away with all its aggression forces, nuclear weapons and all military personnel deployed in south Korea.

The authorities of south Korea must not follow the road of treachery against the will of the people and against the north, but take a sincere stance toward the dialogue for reunification, and must not resort to war clamour and fascist measures threatening and suppressing the people, but transfer power to the democratic patriotic forces.

Int'l Liaison Com. for Korea Reunion

The International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea on March 1 sent a letter to the U.S. President denouncing the U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises codenamed "Team Spirit '80".

The letter said:

You are canvassing for a presidential election, styling yourself a "defender" of human rights and the rights of the people.

You already "committed" yourself to support the dictatorial "regime" whose crimes are widely known to the world when you visited Seoul in 1979 and are now confirming it.

The U.S. armymen, marines and airmen mobilized in the military exercises "Team Spirit '80" you are staging from March 1 in Korea thousands of kilometres away from the mainland of the United States, intending to continue it till mid-April, cannot be regarded as defenders of the people demanding self-determination.

During your office, you have clearly shown how a president threw away all his election "commitments."

Can the American people believe that you will faithfully honour your "commitments" in the next term?

In 1979, hundreds of millions of people of the world and the United States itself signed texts demanding the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and the unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from south Korea.

Why do you refuse to hear the cries of the world people "U.S., get out of south Korea!" and "U.S., take hands off Korea!"?

At this moment when you are asking the people to leave the administration of the United States to you, the American people are strongly demanding you take hands off Korea.

Int'l Bodies

The Permanent Secretariat of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization said:

The holding of the military exercises, which are a fresh link in the war preparations of the United States, is regarded as an open demonstration of force in face of the Korean people and a grave threat to peace in the Korean Peninsula and in other parts of the Asian continent.

Characteristically, the United States is sabre-rattling precisely at a time when representatives of Korea's north and south resumed the contact for a dialogue to resolve the question of the country's reunification.

The AAPSO turns to all the progressive organisations of the world with a call for launching a broad campaign with the aim of making the U.S. administration withdraw its troops from south Korea's territory.

The Bureau of the World Federation of Democratic Youth Feb. 29 said:

The United States must accept without delay the just proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

The WFDY strongly demands the south Korean authorities promptly stop their dangerous war clamour against the DPRK and take a sincere stand for the peaceful reunification of Korea and to guarantee all democratic freedom and human rights in south Korea and release all the patriots and democratic personages in prison.

The World Federation of Trade Unions said:

While talking about the dialogue one hand, the south Korean authorities on the other hand never stop slandering the proposals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the peaceful reunification of the country and stage one provocative military exercise after another.

All facts show that the threat of war in Korea comes from the south, not from the north.

The WFTU demands the U.S. authorities should not cast a dark shadow on the road of the north-south dialogue, but create favourable conditions and climate for contact and dialogue between the north and south for the peaceful reunification of the country.

Korean Colonization of Ancient Japanese Archipelago

2. Behaviour of Korean Settlers

(Continued from the previous issue)

The Korean settlers in the Islands of Japan established a number of small states and emerged a strong force to be reckoned with even after the islands were unified.

Kofun (tumulus) culture, which followed *Yayoi* culture, lasted for about 400 years from the end of the 3rd century or the beginning of the 4th century to the end of the 7th century.

That period was almost the same period during which the Korean Peninsula was divided into Koguryo, Paekche, Silla and Kaya (Karak) located along the Raktong River—the widely known three-kingdom period.

For the study of the early Korean-Japanese relationships, *Kofun* culture is an object as important as *Yayoi* culture of a systematic search for Korean traditions.

The origins of *Kofun* culture were in northern Kyushu as the preceding culture was initiated. That area was open to cultural influences from the Korean Peninsula as Japan's part closest to the continental country. The main seats of tumulus culture were three: the Kyushu region, the Izumo-Kibi (Izumo is part of present Shimane Prefecture and Kibi comprises Bizen, Bingo and Mimasaka areas of present Shimane and Okayama prefectures), and the Yamato region comprising Kawachi (Osaka), Naniwa (Osaka) and Yamashiro (Kyoto). The three formed separate political forces. It may be correct to conclude that the Japanese islands were divided into three kingdoms throughout the mid-7th century, far from under the unified control of the Yamato court.

A look at tumuli found in Kyushu shows that Kyushu was the first to have the historical and material conditions for a new culture of higher levels than *Yayoi* culture. Relics and other artifacts discovered in those tumuli provide ample evidence that Kyushu gave great influence on the Yamato region, never that the contrary was the case. More revealingly, artifacts unearthed in the Kyushu region were found imported from Korea's three kingdoms.

The division of tumuli in Kyushu into roughly three main blocks indicates the presence of several rival small states or kingdoms in the period after the 3rd century when over 30 states were in the islands, along with "Queen Pimiko (or Himiko)'s country."

This fact strongly suggests the formation of Korean dynasties in Kyushu. A most representative example can be found in the Funayama tumulus in Kumamoto Prefecture.

The Funayama tumulus, known to be built in the 5th century, contained a long sword among its artifacts. Characters engraved on it tell that a king of Paekche granted it to the person buried in the tumulus. The king in question was Kuero (throne: 455-475). Other artifacts bear unmistakable signs that they were brought from Paekche or manufactured by its people.

The inscription on that sword is similar to that on the Paekche seven-sheath sword enshrined in Isono-kami Temple in Nara Prefecture. The letters inscribed on the seven-sheath sword read as follows: "This marvellous sword, manufactured after 100 temperings, can defend against all sorts of diseases and is a good present to my local lord. No better sword has so far been produced. Hence, Paekche manufactured this as a gift to a local lord. This gift shall be inherited to posterity."

In other words, kings of Paekche gave those gifts to chieftains of its colonies in the islands of Japan as local lords. To be more blunt, those Korean rulers in Japan, while remaining independent of the Yamato court, were in a state of semi-independence or subjugation in relations with Paekche.

Another evidence to support the presence of Korean kingdoms in Kyushu is in written records on the Koma Kingdom.

Since the 7th century, three prefectures of northern Kyushu—Saga, Nagasaki and Kumamoto—were called Higo or Hizen. According to *Nihon Shoki* and *Koiki*, *Hijin* (people of Higo or Hizen) was pronounced *Koma-no-hito* (people of Koma) in an old manner. Those days, Koma referred to Paekche. In short, a Paekche state existed in that area.

In Hyuga, the birthplace of the legend of Amaterasu-omikami, was a Korean state, known as Kara-no-kuni (a country of Kara), which had been built by migrants from Karak in the southernmost area of Korea. That Kara state was there until the end of the 6th century. According to *Nihon Shoki*, Emperor Yomei's younger brother introduced into the interior of the palace a priest of Kara-no-kuni, namely, a Karak kingdom in Kyushu, as the emperor was interested in Buddhism. (Kara-no-kuni or Toyo-no-kuni comprised Buzen and Bungo areas of Oita Prefecture.) Combined with artifacts contained in tumuli in various parts of Kyushu, the reference in *Nihon Shoki* confirm the presence of a Karak kingdom in the island of Kyushu.

Tumuli in the Izumo-Kibi area strongly suggest the presence of a Korean clan or state since the 4th century as pitted against the Yamato court.

It is also true of the Yamato region's tumuli. There is no conclusive evidence that that area was ruled by a single dynasty throughout the period of tumuli. Tumuli in that area are divided into three different groups, a proof of several powerful clans or their alliance. Given this fact, it is quite safe to conclude that despite the allegations by the Japanese scholars that the Japanese archipelago was unified in the 4th century, strong independent forces ruled lands right under the nose of the Yamato court.

The distribution of tumuli shows: northern Kyushu ruled by a Koma kingdom and a Karak kingdom, the Izumo-Kibi region controlled by a Silla kingdom and the Yamato region by several small states at least till the end of the 5th century. In the then Yamato region, along with a native state, a Silla state was superior to a Karak or Paekche state. It is also known that a Koguryo clan exercised strong influence in the Yamato region.

The afore-said facts provide the following conclusion: As far back as the 5th century, what it called Imperial Japan was among ministates scattered all over the archipelago, with even western Japan and Izumo-Kibi area out of its control. It is an absolute folly and a total distortion to make believe that such a state could establish a colony across the sea, that is, in the Karak area of Korea.

Korean settlers, having set up kingdoms in their colonies in the Japanese islands, kept contact with their home states on the Korean Peninsula.

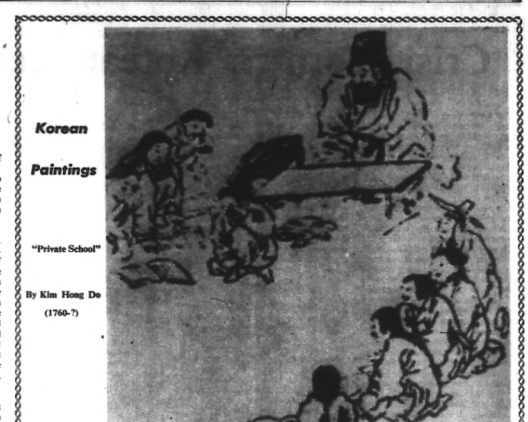
According to *Nihon Shoki*, A.D. 583, a powerful clan, Arishito (Aristeung) was entrenched in the area of Hi (includes Higo and Hizen), where a Koma kingdom existed, had his son serving the Kingdom of Paekche as a 2nd-rank official. His son, Dalsu Nichira (Talsol Illa), was held there hostage. The point is that a powerful clan in northern Kyushu had to send his son to the Paekche court and get a position there: the clan was at descendent of Paekche origin. The names of the father and his son, too, confirm that fact.

Yet, the Paekche court at first refused to allow Nichira to return to Japan when the Yamato court summoned him back. After repeated requests from the Yamato court, Paekche's king permitted his departure, accompanied by the Eunsol (3rd rank), Tokni (4th rank), Yono, Kanochi and other steersmen. The arrival of Nichira was warmly received by the Yamato court as he betrayed Paekche. He told the Yamato court: "The people of Paekche talk of a plan according to which it is intended to request (a settlement in) Tsukushi for 300 ships. If they really make this request, I advise Your Majesty (emperor) to pretend to grant it. Paekche will then wish to create a new country, and will certainly put the women and children on ship-board and come with them in advance. The government, when this time is at hand, should place in ambush in Iki and Tsushima plenty of troops, and, awaiting their arrival, slay them."

Those Paekche officials who accompanied Nichira killed him on hearing his betrayal. Then, the pro-Paekche Yamato court was forced to undertake a careful investigation of the affair. Unable to deal with the issue with its own responsibility because of its potential implications for its relations with Paekche, the Yamato court made the wife and children of Nichira to hide at Kudara-mura in Isogawa (Ishikaha) and surrendered the Paekche officials to the father of Nichira, who in turn could not but deliver them to Paekche.

As for the reference to the plan of Paekche to create a new country in Kyushu, Paekche tried to reestablish its colonial state there as the influence of Yamato became strong enough to reach that region.

(To be continued)



News Dispatch from Pyongyang

Feb. 11

* Rudolf Kirchschaeger, President of the Republic of Austria, met DPRK ambassador to his country Chong Jong Gyu.

The president referred to the favourable development of friendly relations between Austria and Korea.

Feb. 12

* El-Hadj Aboubakar Sangoule Lamizana, President of the Republic of Upper Volta, met DPRK ambassador Kim Ryong Yong to Upper Volta.

Feb. 13

* Leopold Sedar Senghor, President of the Republic of Senegal, met Choe Gwang Guk, the DPRK ambassador to Senegal.

The president said that Senegal would continue to support the dialogue between the north and the south of Korea for national reunification.

Feb. 14

* Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the CC of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, met Kim Yong Sun, the DPRK ambassador to Hungary.

Pointing to the favourable development of friendly and cooperative relations between Hungary and Korea, the first secretary expressed the conviction that the relations would grow stronger and develop in the future.

The struggle of the WPK and the Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the country is a just one, he said. He emphasized that the support of the Hungarian party and government to the Korean people's cause of national reunification would remain invariable in the future, too.

* David Dacko, President of the Republic of Central Africa, met DPRK ambassador to his country Li Man Sok.

The president said that the reunification of Korea should be realized by the Korean people themselves through a dialogue without outside interference.

* Urho Kekkonen, President of the Republic of Finland, met DPRK ambassador Yu Jae Han to Finland.

Referring to the development of friendly and cooperative relations between Finland and Korea, the president hoped that Korea would be reunified by means of dialogue.

Feb. 15

* Kamali Sylvestre, newly appointed Ambassador and Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the DPRK, arrived in Pyongyang.

Feb. 16

* Choe Uk Myong, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Yemen Arab Republic, presented his credentials to Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Yemen Arab Republic.

The president expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the Yemen Arab Republic and Korea would grow stronger and develop in the future.

Feb. 18

* Mathieu Kerekou, President of the People's Republic of Benin met Son Chang Su, DPRK ambassador to his country.

Saying that Korea would surely be reunified, the president voced firm support to the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

Feb. 19

* The 1980-81 plan for cooperation between the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society and the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Korea Friendship Society was signed in Pyongyang.

Feb. 20

* The delegation of the WPK headed by Kim Hwan, Member of the Political Committee, and Secretary, of the CC of the WPK, arrived in Algiers by plane.

Feb. 21

* Gnassingbe Eyadema, President of the Republic of Togo, met Chon Myong Chol, DPRK ambassador to his country.

The president expressed satisfaction at the further strengthening of the friendly relations between the peoples of Togo and Korea and voiced full support to the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

Feb. 22

* Albert Matoko, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of the Congo to the DPRK, arrived in Pyongyang. (KCNA)

Korean Cultural History:

Religion, Literature in Ancient Korea (7)

(Continued from the previous issue)

In ancient Korea the supernatural "god of the heaven" was widely worshipped.

"Myth of Dankun" of Kochosen and "Myth of Haemos" of Puyo are identical in that the descendants of the heavenly god established states and ruled them.

On the other hand, opposition to such worship developed. It was argued that the life of the human being was controled not by the will and order of the god but was determined by the health and in particular by good medicine. This realistic view was prompted by the development of medical science and biology. It included an atheistic factor, insufficient as it was.

The political system in the ancient Korea was fairly regulated. The law was established for the regulation of the political system.

The "eight-point law for crime prevention" was instituted in Kochosen. Only three of the articles remain available. They are:

1)Anyone who committed murder shall be put to death;

2)Anyone who injured someone shall compensate it with grain;

3)Anyone who stole someone's property, shall become a slave of the victim. If he does not want to become so he shall pay 500,000 strings of cash.

It is presumed that there existed the system of fresh traffic intended to defend the benefits of the aristocrats.

The spiritual culture created by the ancient Korean people generally took a form of rituals.

Music and dance in the ancient Korea started and developed in relation with sacred rites.

According to the old records on Puyo, people irrespective of age or sex loved music.

Records on Chinguk noted that the nation had a great enthusiasm for singing and dancing, that they played the 25 stringed instrument (a kind of a stringed instrument, not perfected as that of the age of three kingdoms), and that various forms of bells, drum and flute were used.

Dancing was popular. For example, tens of dancers danced to the accompaniment of music. Records pointed out that dancing and music were well harmonized.

The spiritual culture of the ancient Korea was expressed as art of singing and dancing, being linked with the production activities like agriculture.

For instance, dancing, in dedication to the heaven, was held in Kochosen every October in order to bring farming to a finish; drumming was conducted in Puyo at the end of a year for a festival of the heaven; a festival of the heaven for invoking and celebrating a bumper was held in Chinguk in May and October, with a grand party continued all the night through.

This ancient rituals of dance and music gradually lost its religious color later on and developed into daily and collective arts as instruments were improved, including instrumental music of peasants and traditional national amusements. They became a basis of folk dance and music.

According to the record on view of ethics and moral, there was no thief, so people could live without closing doors in the night. In Chinguk, people respected courtesy and moral. They used to say "after you, please" to each other in accordance to the difference of status and age when they happened to walk on the same road.

Ancient Korea saw progress in literature.

Narratives and ballads were central forms of literature those days.

They were originally handed down by the oral method and later in written forms. They mainly catered to the aristocrats.

An exemplary narrative was "Myth of Dankun," on the foundation of the nation in Kochosen. The myth goes: Hwanung, the son of the god of the heaven, landed on Mt. Taebaek (present Mt. Myohyang) in Korea and reigned over the whole country. He married a bear who became a human female by eating garlic and mugwort. Dankun was born as their son. Dankun established Kochosen and installed himself as its first king. He lived to become 1908 years old and ruled the country.

"Konghuin" written by Ryook, a poetess, was the only written work of ballad. The original of this ancient lyric ballad didn't remain. The content of the ballad was told in Chinese poetry.

The following anecdote was known about the production of "Konghuin":

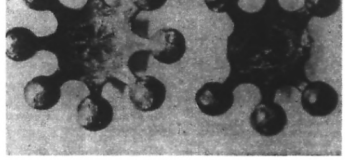
When Kwakrijako, a boatman, rowed a boat at dawn, a stranger white-haired old man entered the river to get across it. The wife of the old man tried to check his husband not to do so. The old man shook off his wife and plunged himself into the water, to be drowned. The wife, who saw him die in front of her, entered the river while singing, by conveying her sorrow in Konghuin. This is how "Konghuin" was also drowned dead.

The Kwakrijako who happened to witness the tragedy said to his wife Ryook on the matter.

She versified the words of the wife of the old man and set the poem to music. She sang this poem to accompaniment of Konghuin. This is how "Konghuin" was produced. This song was widely sung by the ancient Koreans.

"Konghuin" was the ancient lyric ballad making experience of an individual or a family who was harshly exploited and met a tragic end under the class society as a motif.

(To be continued)



Metallic eight ball bell

Short Story:

Happiness

(6)

By Sok Yun Ki

(Continued from the previous issue)

The chairman carefully packed the portable again and handed it over to me. Then returning to our conversation he took up where he left off.

"Since you know nothing about these people I will try to tell you briefly about them.

"Sung Jae is a good fellow. He is a recipient of National Order First Class and he was awarded two other decorations. He became a Party member at the front. During the war he was a tank hunter and knocked off a dozen or so American tanks single-handed. Then he was wounded by splinters. In the region of the waist it seems.

"Ever since he was discharged he has been treated at different hospitals for several years, but with little success. His case is regarded a serious one.

"According to doctors, his case belongs to the category you mentioned a few minutes ago, and it is only miracle that he should be still alive. But Sung Jae is very optimistic, no less than a healthy person. And the Party too has helped him in every way.

"I was at the front they came to know each other. Ok Ju was then a nurse. She sees things in a different light from some doctors. She went to a medical school to become an assistant doctor because she wanted to save her comrade in revolution. We are proud of this Party member. In the end she married him, yes, she married him whom doctors said would be an invalid for the rest of his days.

"When Ok Ju was discharged she took him to her house—by this time he had had his fill of hospitals. Sung Jae can't do a thing for himself.

"I was at his place some time ago. There were still discharges from the wounds. As I said, Ok Ju has to do everything for him. She cleanses the wounds; she bathes him; she feeds him. It seems there is little she can do now as far as his condition is concerned, though she has finished a medical school. But what can she do? After all, a case like his has been sealed as hopeless by many renowned surgeons of the world, I hear. That's why more than ever I hope your research will be successful. I do feel the spirit of the heroic Korean people should be exhibited also in the medical field. Though all others might fail, the Korean doctors should be different.

"The question is devotion, a warm heart for man. Some have doubts as to the motive of Ok Ju's marrying him. They view her marriage as something like a beautiful story, a kind act of a simple-minded young girl. It remains to be seen if they are right.

"On our part, however, we should do everything to help them make a happy home. We wish them all the happiness in the world. Theirs is an unusual, yet very precious home.

"If I may repeat, I am sorry, very sorry that you had known nothing about this family. You are a department head. But I am sure you will from now on feel responsible for this family as a Party member."

I was too moved for words by the Party chairman's story. I shall remember his words as long as I live. I will take them with me when I die. At no time had I ever heard such a strong pronouncement of love for human beings. It was the very answer that I had been searching for ever since I returned from the war. I was convinced. The human mind can be stronger than medicine; and no doctor has any right to commit such a mind to death.

Tears came to my eyes because, first of all, I realized that I was living among such noble characters, secondly, from the self-reproach that I had even laboured under a strange mistake, let alone recognizing such characters. Words fail to describe my feelings then. Did my tears come from shame, or from bubbling joy? I really cannot tell for sure even yet. But it was so noble and inspiring.

When I returned to the hospital I gave the radio to Comrade Ok Ju, saying little. I guess I was too overwhelmed. And she was pleased to death over the radio saying repeatedly she did not know how to thank county Party chairman.

That night I could not go to sleep. The bright, radiant face of Ok Ju flashed before my eyes. Who would have ever guessed the heart of this girl playing with a white mouse like a kid was so deep—a sea of boundless love? I recalled the night the hospital celebrated the holiday: how she thrilled the people with her singing. Then there was Ok Ju who looked so greatly disturbed. Now I could see what I had thought beautiful of her was only surface—only a particle of Ok Ju—beautiful thorough and thorough, inside and outside. I felt ashamed of my biased views. But in no less degree I was overjoyed at the fact that there was such a noble soul beside me.

While I kept tossing from side to side, there was a sudden knock on my door. It was the nurse on duty. A knock at such unearthly hour was no surprise, as it is not uncommon in a doctor's life. But sensing it was an urgent case, I hurried to the hospital. My fears were confirmed.

The patient was a woman who had been brought on a cart from some 8 kilometres away. Already hospital cadres had gathered, Ok Ju among them.

The patient was in great pain. I examined her at once. It was a case of perforated gastritis. In the "Layman's language her stomach would soon be holed, and she had to be operated on immediately. But our hospital was not properly equipped to perform major operations. Above all, there was no blood-bank. It was the standing rule that such cases be sent to the hospital in the provincial capital. The ambulance was ready to take her there. But the trouble was she could not last that long. Things had to be done then and there. I could not say I was an expert hand at such operations, but, the situation being such, I suggested that the operation be done right away. When they sent for me, they had expected something of me. In the meantime various tests on the patient had been made. Now another bottleneck. Judging from the blood-test, her blood was of type "O". None present there, save one—a woman who had given birth a short time ago—had "O" type blood. This "O" type is a funny thing. When it is transfused to others, it can be given to any one. But "O" type must receive the same type blood.

And my blood is "O" type, too. So, I guess, I was meant to be a surgeon. But everyone ruled against me. Their argument was this. I was going to operate on her. What would happen if I gave hundreds of grams of blood? But the situation was urgent. What might happen to her while we were arguing?

In the end, I won. Now the whole hospital began to move. Everyone was assigned for operation preparations, and soon everything was ready. Then I rolled up my sleeve and stuck out my arm. Ok Ju, who was to be my assistant, took out 200 grams of blood from me.

She was very hesitant to inject the needle in my arm, looking very guilty about the whole thing. But gently I coaxed her until she did as she was told. Dropping her head, she said in a very faint voice:

"I'm really sorry to do this!"

The husband or mother of the patient could not have been more sincere than she. She is such a girl. Here is a girl, a beautiful girl, ready to sacrifice her life for an invalid, yet who feels so much pain in taking out a few grams of other's blood. She acted as if everything was her fault!

When I think of her pure heart, I feel I would give even the very last ounce of blood for others.

When she finished, I started the operation. I soon found out it was a good thing that we had decided to operate on the patient immediately: a little delay might have cost her life.

She was under the knife more than four hours. When everything was finished, sudden exhaustion came over me. So you can imagine the condition of the poor woman who had been on the operation table so long. She had lost much blood during operation. She needed another transfusion right away. So I held out my arm again.

Ok Ju just looked at me: I was perspiring profusely. In the end, she turned her back to me. I told her to hurry, but she just stared at me. So I asked other doctors, but no one wanted to do anything. By this time I was very irritated, but pleaded in vain. To think of it now, I guess, I looked pretty bad myself then. I had been working rather hard for several days. So the former hour operation and transfusion naturally would make me look haggard. But there was no time to lose. I got angry at everyone, and Ok Ju came round. In a choked voice she said: "I think we must have a blood-bank because there will be other major operations. I really hate to do this." Then she took out some blood again.

(To be continued)

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